1	2	3	4
5.	Seagram Distilleries Ltd.; Mumbai	350000 Bulk liters Alcoholic beverages concentrate Rs. 2,07,32,000/-	29.6.2000
6.	M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd.; Gurgaon	455 Bulk KL of concentrate of alcholic beverages Rs. 2,62,80,163/-	13.8.99
7.	Central Distillery and Breweries Ltd.; U.P.	200,000 BL of concentrate of Scotch concentrate alcoholic beverages Rs. 210 lakhs	3.1.2001
8.	Allied Domeq Sprits and Wines (I) Pvt. Ltd.; New Delhi	320 Bulk KL concentrate alcoholic beverages	24.11.2000

Availability of edible salt

2574. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether salt industrial area adjacent to the NH-4 near Bachau in Bhuj has been completely wiped out; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that there is no shortage of edible salt in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, some cracks have appeared in various compartments of the salt works.

(b) Enough stock of edible salt is available in Gujarat and also in other salt producing States. As such, shortage of salt in the country is not anticipated.

Production and consumption of cement

2575. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of cement in the country during the last three years;

(b) the production of cement in the country during the same period;

(c) whether there has been a sudden increase in price of cement during the last few months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether MRTP Commission has ordered any investigation into this unprecedented cement price-rise; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring down the sudden rise in cement price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The cement production and consumption in the country during the last three years (large plants) is as under:—

Year	Cement Production	Cement Consumption (In Million Tonnes)
1997-98	76.74	73.89
1998-99	81.67	79.77
1999-2000	94.21	92.05

(c) During the last few months cement prices have gone up in most parts of the country.

(d) The reasons for price-rise can be attributed to operation of market forces of demand and supply.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government is seized of the situation and the prices are being closely monitored. Meetings have been held with cement manufacturers in this regard and it has been reported that the price-rise has been arrested and a marginal decline has occurred in some places. Government have also announced reduction of import duty on cement from 35 percent to 25 percent and this is likely to have stabilising effect on prices.

Impact of WTO on prices of commodities

2576. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: